

PATENT
App. Ser. No.: 10/074,816
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010293US1
PS Ref. No.: IBMK10293

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for holding one or more devices, comprising:
a rack comprising:
a plurality of one or more devices, at least one of the devices having a microcontroller contained therein;
a device memory associated with contained in each of the plurality at least one of the devices, the device memory containing a unique identifier to identify the device; and
a bus connecting the microcontroller contained in the at least one device and the device memories contained in the other devices, the microcontroller being configured to retrieve the unique identifier from at least one device memory contained in one of the other devices.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the each device memory comprises information about the device in which it is contained.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the rack further comprising a rack memory connected to the microcontroller through the bus, the rack memory containing information about the rack; and the microcontroller being configured to retrieve the information from the rack memory.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein information about the rack comprises a unique identifier associated with the rack.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the device further comprises comprising a user interface communicably linked to the microcontroller

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microcontroller and contained in the at least one of the devices having the
microcontroller contained therein.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4 5, wherein the microcontroller is communicably linked to a user interface remote from the rack.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bus is a one-wire bus.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bus comprises a wire configured to indicate to the microcontroller that the bus is busy.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the microcontroller contains a device- inventory program; and a processor which, when executing the device-inventory program, performs an operation comprising:

receiving a request command from the user interface;

issuing a retrieve command to the device memory memories in response to receiving the request command, the retrieve command being configured to retrieve information about the device devices containing the device memories;

receiving the information about the device devices containing the device memories; and

sending the the information about the device devices containing the device memories to the user interface.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of programmatically taking an inventory of one or more devices, each device being mounted on a rack, comprising:

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receiving a request command from a user interface communicably linked to a microcontroller contained in a first one of the devices;

issuing a retrieve command to a plurality of one or more memories including memories located in the first device and at least one other device connected to the rack and connected to the microcontroller via a bus, in response to receiving the request command, the retrieve command being configured to retrieve inventory information from the plurality of one or more memories;

receiving the inventory information from the plurality of one or more memories;
and

sending the inventory information to the user interface.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 14, wherein each device memory comprises the inventory information containing one of a unique identifier associated with the device containing the device memory and information about the device containing the device memory.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the plurality of one or more memories comprise a rack memory coupled to the rack.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the rack memory comprises the inventory information containing one of a unique identifier associated with the rack and information about the rack.

20-29. (Cancelled)